

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET,
JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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HERALD.

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THE DAILY HERALD, published every day in the
year. Four cents per copy. Annual subscription
price \$12.

Volume XXXVI. No. 289

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—HELP-A-FAVORITE
FANCY. Matinee.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and
Houston streets.—THE STREETS OF NEW YORK.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of 8th av. and 23d st.—
GILKIN O'KEE.

LINA EDWIN'S THEATRE, No. 730 Broadway.—FRENCH
OPERA.—LA FAVORITE.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—
THE NEW DEBATE OF DIVORCE. Matinee at 1½.

UNION SQUARE THEATRE, Fourteenth st. and Broad-
way.—NEURO OTIS.—BULLDOG, BALLY, &c.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—THE BELL AND
ROMANCE OF LUCRETIA BURGESS. Matinee at 2.

STADT THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery.—OPERA
SEASON.—LUCIA.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street.—
A CURIOUS CASE.—A GAME OF SPECULATION.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street.—ENGLISH
OPERA.—DON GIOVANNI.

WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner 20th st.—Perform-
ances afternoon and evening.—THE OCEANOGRAPH.

ROOTH'S THEATRE, 22d st., between 5th and 6th av.—
MAGNET.

MRS. F. E. CONWAY'S BROADWAY THEATRE.—
THE LANCERS.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 614 Broadway.—COMIC VOCAL
PERFORMANCES, NEGRO ACTS, &c.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTREL HALL, 555 Broadway.—
THE SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.

BRANT'S NEW OPERA HOUSE, 23d st., between 6th
and 7th av.—BRANT'S MINSTRELS.

TONTASTON'S OPERA HOUSE, No. 201 Bowery.—
TONTASTON'S MINSTRELS, &c.

STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street.—MOULTON
CONCERT.

PARIS PATRIOTIC CIRCUS, Fourteenth street, between
5th and 6th av.—EQUESTRIANISM, &c.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE EXHIBITION, Third av. and
Sixty-third street.—Open day and evening.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Monday, October 16, 1871.

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THE MOUNTAINS of California are reported
to be on fire.

THE AMERICANS IN EUROPE prove by their
action in aid of the people of Chicago—as is
set forth in our cable telegrams from the Old
World to-day—that distance does not diminish
the love of patriotic hearts for the land of
their birth, which becomes more dear "in
its sorrow and gloom" than is "the rest of
the world in its sunniest hours."

THE AUSTRIAN CABINET is agitated by the
reception of official advices which report the
appearance of provincial disturbances in the
empire. The movements have been crushed
by military force, but it looks as if the
Emperor and Premier von Beust were not ex-
actly in accord as to the propriety or expected
healthy results of such a plan of treatment.

THE RECIPROCITIES OF PEACE AND GOOD
WILL.—The British people pour in their con-
tributions for the relief of Chicago, and thank
us for capturing General O'Neill. Thanks to
the Washington Treaty, Great Britain and the
United States are no longer enemies, but
friends. The peoples who ought never to be
divided in sentiment have entered upon an
era of peace and good will.

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
commences an adjourned term in Washington
to-day, when Chief Justice Chase will be pre-
sent and preside. A number of important
cases are to be decided, probably very early in
the term, among them the questions relative
to the constitutionality of the Civil Rights bill
and of the cotton tax, and relative to liabilities
for debts contracted in the purchase or hire of
slaves, and the opinions of the majority and
minority of the Court relative to the constitu-
tionality of the Legal Tender act are also to
be rendered. The decision in the latter case,
it will be remembered, was rendered last term,
but the individual opinions of the Justices were
not then made public.

EMPEROR AUGUSTA OF GERMANY gives one
thousand thalers as her personal subscription
to the Chicago Relief Fund. Her Majesty has
not forgotten the dark days of Prussia's tribu-
lation after the French "baptism by fire." She
also remembers the generous sympathy
which America expressed for her devoted and
gallant husband, her children and subjects.

The Financial Prospect—Revolutions and Their Causes.

In financial affairs, as well as in other
things, there is much truth in the remark that
"there is nothing new under the sun." The
same causes that have operated in times past
to create panics or a financial crisis continue
and will continue to produce like results. The
effect is more or less modified, it is true, by the
peculiar and varying circumstances of different
epochs, but the causes are similar, and the
consequences in a lesser or greater degree the
same. The progress of civilization, with all
the blessings it brings, has not yet restrained
the cupidity of mankind. Indeed, speculation
and making haste to get rich seem to be
stimulated more and more as civilization ad-
vances and as wealth augments. While the
world has continued to make progress from
the earliest period to the present time, by
succeeding generations using the knowledge of
those that preceded them and by adding
thereto the knowledge that science and art are
constantly developing, the ruling passions of
men exist as formerly. The financial affairs
of nations, like those of the moral world and
physical nature, move in cycles. Action and
reaction succeed each other inevitably. Mer-
cury in the barometer is scarcely more sen-
sitive to the weather than the money market and
business to speculation and current events.
Expansion of credits, overtrading, fiscal bur-
dens, general extravagance, wars, and great
calamities, like the fire at Chicago or the
failure of crops, must in the end create a re-
volution, and the extent of such revolution de-
pends upon the influence of one or more of
these causes or of all combined.

In going back to the files of the HERALD for
the year 1837, the graphic accounts of the
great revolution of that period seem to be
descriptive in a measure of the state of things
now existing and of the prospect before us.
Inflation or expansion of paper credits, specu-
lation on fictitious capital, and extravagance
in everything, caused a financial collapse and
suspension of specie payments. General bank-
ruptcy and high prices brought the people
to the point of starvation, though there
was no lack of provisions, and though the
country was full of resources. A dollar
would not purchase as much as twenty-five
cents before the crisis. Distress was every-
where and among all classes. Securities of
all kinds and the extravagant inflated value of
real estate fell greatly. The fact that every-
thing had been forced up to a fictitious value
by credit expansions and the mania of specu-
lation was apparent to all. This state of
things was like the high pressure of the steam
engine when carried beyond the highest point.
A fearful collapse followed, sending destruc-
tion all round. The law of equilibrium which
regulates trade and finance, as everything else
in the universe, can no more be violated in
financial or commercial affairs without a
reaction or revolution than can the laws of the
physical or moral world.

The condition of the stock and money
market generally, and particularly at New
York, the great centre of wealth and com-
merce, a few days ago, was calculated to
create an impression that the country had
reached the culminating point of a revo-
lution, overtrading and extravagance, and
that it was about to pass through
another of those periodical revolutions
which occur at intervals. It did seem
to portend a crisis something like that of 1837.
The vast destruction of property by the Chi-
cago fire, the devastating fires in Michigan,
Wisconsin and Minnesota, the stupendous
frauds in this city, the fall of government
securities and rise of gold, and the consequent
embarrassment brought upon the Treasury
Department and its Syndicate agency in han-
dling the new loan, with other circumstances
calculated to create apprehension and diffi-
culty, appeared to combine to bring about a
general crash. The rapid fall of stocks gen-
erally from ten to twenty-five per cent, some
declining even more than that, was like the
murmuring of a coming storm. So significant
were the signs that we advised the people to
be prepared and to seek shelter. Happily
there has been a lull. The clouds are over
us yet, but remain stationary. Are they rest-
ing there for the next financial gale of dis-
turbance, and, then, to hasten on the threat-
ened destruction? Is this suspense simply a
temporary reaction? Do the elements of a
greater and more general revolution exist as
before, to burst over us in the end? It cannot
be said that the market has recovered. It is
only in a state of suspense. Let us see what
is the prospect before us, for that is what
every one is anxious to know.

We have no disposition to be alarmists. We
are more disposed always to be hopeful and
to inspire confidence when there are reason-
able grounds for that. But it is necessary to
understand the financial situation of the coun-
try, so as to be prepared for the worst and to
avert as far as possible any disaster that may
come upon us. Our late war produced a
revolution in the financial situation of the
country as well as in political affairs, and in
both brought demoralization. The people
learned to look upon thousands of dollars as
they used to think of hundreds. The enor-
mous revenue and expenditures of the govern-
ment and an inflated paper currency changed
the value of money and everything else in the
minds of the people, and this led to an ex-
aggerated and fictitious estimate of real estate,
bonds, stocks and property of all kinds.
Though the assessed value of property is not
very much higher relatively to the growth and
improvement of the country the market or
speculative value has been forced up extrava-
gantly. The fall of gold from fifty
per cent premium or upwards to twelve
or fourteen per cent, and the contraction
of the currency, both positively and
comparatively, to the growth and wants
of the nation, have had little or no effect
upon prices or the speculative value of prop-
erty. In fact, we have no real standard of
value, for gold is an article of commerce, and
there is such a limited quantity of it in the
country that it is impossible to make it the
measure of value. It is only a measure of
value for gambling in Wall street and for cer-
tain fiscal operations of the government.
How, indeed, can it be made a standard of
value generally, with only three hundred mil-
lions or so in the country and with a contin-
ual drain of this comparatively small amount
to pay our indebtedness abroad? The export
of specie since the 1st of last January—a lit-
tle over nine months—was \$66,717,239. This

is probably the full amount of a year's pro-
duction of all our mines, if not more than
that. At this rate there must be at the end of
the year a considerable reduction of the small
and always diminishing quantity in the coun-
try. But this is not all. We are continually
sending abroad our securities to pay for our
extravagance and the balance of trade against
us in addition to the gold, and, therefore, the
demand for more specie to pay the constantly
augmenting interest increases from month to
month and year to year. We need no prophet
to tell us where this must end.

Yet the Secretary of the Treasury and the
sanguine specie-payment theorists view every-
thing in *couleur de rose*, as if we were sailing
along gloriously, without the least danger.
Mr. Boutwell, in his contracted view of things,
rejoices over the enormous revenue he re-
ceives from excessive imports, high duties
and from taxes wrung out of the industry of
the people. He does not see that the pros-
perity, if we may use such a term, of the
Treasury is the ruin of the country and that in
the end the Treasury itself must suffer. The
whole financial policy of the government, to-
gether with the extravagance and expansion
caused primarily by the war, are leading us
inevitably to bankruptcy and are mortgaging
the country to foreigners. If we go on in this
way we shall be for ages to come merely the
hewers of wood and drawers of water to the
capitalists abroad. It is precisely this state of
things which causes perturbations in the stock
and money market when any such calamity as
the Chicago fire falls upon the nation. Yet
what is the loss of a few millions, or even
seventy millions, to the stupendous resources
and future of this country? The whole evil
lies in the unnatural and artificial financial
system we live under.

But, to go back to the actual state of affairs
now, it will be well to inquire what is the im-
mediate prospect. It is possible the banks and
business establishments generally may keep
afloat for a time, though some insurance com-
panies and other institutions may go down.
It is certain, however, that a great and im-
minent crisis can only be averted by extraor-
dinary efforts, if averted at all. Then the ulcer
will remain and keep eating deeper into the
vitals of the nation. The evil day would only
be put off. The banks may check their un-
healthy expansion of credit for speculative
purposes and business men may become more
prudent, which would be useful, but until high
prices and fictitious values are brought down
to something like a normal condition a terrible
crisis will hang over us. Perhaps there may
be no way found of restoring the country to a
healthy financial state but through a revo-
lution and a readjustment of values and prices.
The speculative value of real estate in the city
of New York is probably double the real value,
or more than that, and it is much the same in
other cities and parts of the republic. Of
course all business and prices are based upon
this fictitious estimate. Mr. Boutwell and the
other stupid financiers at Washington tell us
the country is in the happiest financial condi-
tion because the revenue is enormous and the
debt is being paid at the rate of a hundred
millions a year. Yet a plethoric Treasury and
the rapid payment of the debt do not bring
relief. They do not put up the credit of the
government above to tempt us to stand-
do not bring down the premium on gold; do
not prevent the constant drain of specie from
the country and the augmentation of our
indebtedness to foreigners; do not prevent our
shipping interests declining, and cannot pre-
vent a great and general revolution when the
day of settlement arrives by the outbreak of
war or some other catastrophe. If, happily,
we get over the present financial difficulty the
general causes will remain to operate another
day, and the sooner our business men and the
government understand this the better.

Tyng After the Ritualists Again.

If there has lurked in any mind hitherto doubts
of the Low Church orthodoxy of the Rev.
Stephen H. Tyng, Jr., we are certain they
will be dispelled by a perusal of his sermon in
to-day's HERALD. Mr. Tyng is not a man who
combats error by denouncing it or its defend-
ers. He believes in the power of truth and its
leavening effects, and his plan is to place
the truth and the lie side by side,
and to present the salient points of
each so clearly that the youngest and
most ignorant of his congregation cannot
make a mistake in choosing between them.
The great distinction which marks the Church
of St. Albans and St. Mary the Virgin and
separates them from St. George's, Ascension
or the Church of the Holy Trinity was well
set forth yesterday by Mr. Tyng. In the
former Christ is located in the creed, the
Church and the sacraments, and as a conse-
quence is made inferior to these. The sac-
raments of religion are deemed of greater im-
portance than the building itself. Christ in the
water becomes greater than Christ in the
heart, and He is sought for on the table
instead of at the table. The bare statement
of these truths were enough to show both
sides of the controversy which has begun in
the Episcopal Church, but which, we believe,
has received a partial settlement in the Epis-
copal declaration at Baltimore, for which Mr.
Tyng was willing to give thanks, though it
was not all that he could have wished for.
We commend his words to our readers, espe-
cially to those of his own denomination.

THE PRESIDENT'S MOVEMENTS IN BOSTON.—
General Grant and his party of United States
officials from Washington arrived in Boston
Saturday afternoon, where they were formally
welcomed by the city authorities. In the
evening the President and party attended the
entertainment given by the Sirakosch Italian
opera troupe as a benefit for Chicago; yester-
day the General attended church, and to-day
he will lay the corner stone of the new post
office they are going to build for Boston,
somewhat on the plan of ours, though not so
large. Senator Sumner, it is surmised, on
account of his health, will not assist on the
occasion.

Chicago's Fiery Trial—Eloquent Sermons and Noble Responses.

Never before in the history of the world
was there manifested so grandly and so glo-
riously the oneness of the human family as it
has been during the past few days. And
never has Christianity loomed up so divine
and so rich in its sympathies and in its
consolations as just at this time. One
sentiment alone animates every heart and
one response alone is made to every appeal.
There is no need to "dun" men for subscrip-
tions for Chicago sufferers, for young and old,
rich and poor alike are ready to give the
moment they are apprised that some one will
undertake to transmit their gifts to those for
whom they are intended. This outburst of
Christian sympathy has no parallel save in
that outburst of patriotism which this nation
presented to the world in 1861. And the
sympathy of the nation is even deeper and
stronger than its patriotism.

In other columns of the HERALD to-day will
be found the stirring appeals of a score or more
of the pastors of this city and vicinity in be-
half of those who have so recently come out of
the burning, fiery furnace, heated, as it was,
seven times hotter than it was wont to be.
The noble response of the several congregations
to those appeals will also be read with in-
terest. Well, indeed, might the eloquent pastor
of Plymouth church declare yesterday, to his
three thousand hearers, "that the sight
of so much nobility and unselfishness
would transcend in value all the
loss." The lessons of wisdom and of trust, of
sympathy and of unity which this terrible dis-
aster teaches were pointedly revealed in Mr.
Beecher's discourse. "No man stands alone,
much less a community. This great disaster
is a revelation of the structure and function of
cities. They are the heads of the great body;
they express the life of the nation. Chi-
cago is blotted out, but every village in the
land feels the flash of that flame. Its secret
threads, its nerves, extend in multitudinous
directions. There is scarcely a city on the globe but had some of the roots
of Chicago in it. When men find themselves
to-day poor and to-morrow rise up, elate and
inspired, the manhood they exhibit makes the
whole world rich. When a whole community
in the midst of this ruin of fire stand up brave
and strong the exhibition is of incalculable
benefit to the whole human race." Never were
truer words uttered, and the lesson of this
noble manhood will not fall unheeded upon
the ears of humanity. The ashes of Chicago
to-day contain treasures richer than those
which the banks and warehouses contained be-
fore the fire, and those treasures are the com-
mon property of all mankind.

The Rev. Dr. Duryea struck the keynote of
permanent relief to which we should all
respond. The present necessity does not
represent all that will be required. A long
winter is approaching, and before even indi-
ferent shelter can be obtained or sufficient
clothing to keep away the pinching frost it
will be upon those poor sufferers. The nation
should remember this and not flag in its noble
efforts for their relief. We would call special
attention to the organizations of Mr. Beecher's
and Dr. Duryea's congregations for perma-
nent relief to the Congregational churches of
Chicago. Let our other churches systematize
and make permanent their efforts, and the
present need is met the sufferers will not have
to cry out again for further aid. Let the
stream run on; the fountain is rich enough
and deep enough to supply all the wants of
Chicago. The Rev. T. De Witt Talmage
made an eloquent appeal which was nobly
responded to.

In our own city there was something beau-
tiful in the encouraging and faithful view
which the pastors took of the future of Chi-
cago. Instead of having lost everything Dr.
Hepworth believes the people of that city have
everything left. They have their future,
which will be more splendid than their past,
and they have an undaunted spirit and an
energy and enterprise which nothing can
appall. It is, after all, a proud sight,
those lusty men are not cast down.
What has been done can be done
again. And they have begun already. Talk
of the days of chivalry after this! Why,
those olden times were boys' play by the side
of these heroic years. And well, too, might
Dr. Chapin remark that this fire had brought
out much of the good which is in man, and
triumphantly ask, when and where have we
seen such an example of Christian charity? For
one he said he felt like kneeling and
thanking God for so much good in humanity.
Yes, indeed; but the good in us is manifested
in its fullness only on such occasions as this.

There will be always found preachers who
look upon all such calamities as this as just
judgments from God for the sins of the people.
One of these—Rev. Dr. Duncan, of the Cen-
tral Baptist church, Brooklyn—took just such
a view. We most affectionately invite his
perusal of Rev. Dr. Ewer's sermon on this
very point. At such a suggestion Dr. Ewer
thinks that every man endowed with the
instincts of humanity should start back in
horror. We think so too. And the
minister of Jesus Christ who teaches any
other Gospel, we are free to say, misinterprets
the God whom we worship. The great moral
lessons which Dr. Joseph P. Thompson drew
from Chicago were, the government of God,
the duties of man and the light of modern
civilization in the nineteenth century. Chicago
is the "hub" of this Continent, not Boston.
The Doctor thanked God for this fire.

The highest interest was awakened in some
of the Catholic churches by the presence of
clergymen from the ruined city. The Rev.
Father Gavin in St. Stephen's church aroused
and riveted the attention of the large
audience to whom he recounted the
losses in public buildings alone of his
Church. Seven Roman Catholic churches,
six convents, eight schools and col-
leges, two asylums, two hospitals, the
Bishop's residence and six parsonages swept
away, and at least thirty thousand persons of
the Catholic faith—many of them inmates and
attendants of the above-named institutions,
aged and infirm, orphans and widows—left
without shelter, clothing or bread to eat.

The Rev. Father Martin, of St. Mary's
church, Chicago, thrilled the assemblage in St.
Francis Xavier's, also, with his recital of these
losses. In nearly all our city churches—Jew-
ish and Christian, Protestant and Catholic
alike—the appeals made have met with ap-
propriate responses. And from Washington the

same magnanimous response comes by tele-
graph. All these discourses and the sum of
their practical fruits will be found in this
paper, and we commend both to our readers,
with the single word to such of our ministerial
friends as have not yet moved in this matter,
if any such there are:—Go and do thou like-
wise. And imitate with your congregations, if
possible, the stirring appeal and munificent
gift of Dr. Bellows and his church for their
Chicago brethren.

The Great Fires in the West—A Fearful Visitation.

The terrible details of the Western fires are
being gradually revealed to us, and they pre-
sent a picture too fearful and agonizing to be
readily realized by those who are living in
ease and safety, far removed from the scene
of suffering. To-day we publish a brief but
graphic account of the ravages in and around
the village of Peshtigo, Wisconsin, and it is
to be feared that the scenes there depicted
have been but too frequently enacted in
other localities during this season
of extraordinary visitation. Our pre-
sent account comes from Oconto county, in
the northeast corner of Wisconsin, and from
the southern part of Menominee county, in
Northern Michigan, bordering upon Green
Bay. The Peshtigo river runs into Green
Bay from a northwesterly direction, and
about seven miles up from the harbor of Peshtigo
is the village of that name. The next
township to that of Peshtigo is Marinette,
which is divided from Menominee county,
Michigan, by the Menominee river, and on
that river stands the village of Marinette.
It appears that the first intimation the
residents of the doomed village of Peshtigo
received of the calamity that awaited them
was on the evening of Sunday, the 8th instant,
after the close of the services at the churches,
when there was suddenly heard a roaring,
rushing sound, likened to the first distant
mutterings of a storm, or the hoarse murmur
of an angry sea. As this strange and terrify-
ing noise increased the poor creatures seem
to have been aroused to a presentiment of coming
danger. It may have been listened to at
first without serious apprehension, as the
supposed precursor of one of those
fierce but comparatively harmless sweep-
ings of the wind that so frequently
pass over the broad prairie lands of the West.
But soon it began to be realized that a deadly
heat was in the breath of that horrible tornado,
and the warning reflection of a mighty con-
flagration was cast over the scene. We are told
that electric flames shot through the air; that
balls of fire fell like meteors in different parts
of the village, igniting whatever they came in
contact with, as though a mysterious and re-
lentless army had been pouring "shot and
shell, a fire of hell," over the devoted town.
We must leave to science to decide, in calmer
moments, whether the phenomena so vividly
described by the excited sufferers had actually
any existence, or whether they were only
blazing particles from the burning forests and
prairies, whirled along and fanned by the
driving wind. The horror-stricken inhabi-
tants appear then to have first awakened to
the knowledge that a destroying fire was rushing
towards their homes, borne upon the
wings of the tornado, and instantly the peace-
ful village, just settling down to the re-
pose of a Sabbath evening, was a scene
of terror and confusion scarcely
to be pictured in the imagination of
those who were not eye-witnesses of
the frightful calamity. Parents clasped their
children in their arms and fled from their
houses, knowing not in what direction to seek
for safety. There was no time to think of
more than life, and that, unfortunately, could
not in many hundreds of cases be preserved.
We are told that the poor creatures flying in
terror were in many instances lapped up by
the hungry flames and scorched and withered
and burned in their tracks. But the details
are too horrible for repetition. They will be
read in the accounts we have now received,
and shall, it is to be feared, continue to receive,
from the scenes of the disasters.

Enough is already known to convince us
that the burning of Chicago, sad as it was,
can be reckoned as a light grief when com-
pared with the devastation of these prairie
homes and quiet villages in the Far West.
The one entails mainly destruction of prop-
erty—pecuniary loss—which the great gen-
erosity of the civilized world can do much to
lighten if not altogether to reimburse. The
latter carries in its desolating path the most
horrible of deaths, and strikes thousands of
hearts with a sorrow keener and more last-
ing than any the loss of mere worldly
goods can bring. Yet even the pecuniary
suffering must be greater among these villages
and prairie settlers than with the people of a
large city. The former have no neighbors left
in comparative affluence to relieve their im-
mediate necessities, and no hope of a speedy
relief from their sudden poverty by aid of the
spirit of enterprise which always comes to the
rescue of a young and vigorous city like Chi-
cago. They must remain in their sor-
row and want, brooding over their
misery, unless the hand of sympathy
is stretched forth for their comfort
and relief. It is therefore to be sincerely
hoped that the noble and wonderful impulse
which has prompted all the world to extend
such glorious assistance to the people of Chi-
cago will be again awakened by the sufferings
of these Western villagers, and that a por-
tion of the grand stream of benevolence now
flowing towards the forests and the prairies
where there is so much need of sympathy and
aid.

OUR CITY'S HEALTH.—Our death record of
last week is 486, which shows that we are
free from epidemics of all kinds. The births
of the week were 566, which is very good, for
generally our death record exceeds the births.
The marriages were 232, which is also a good
report; and may the good work still go on, to
the strengthening of society and our city and
country and to the glory of God!

HOW MUCH OF IT IS THE WORK OF THE IN-
CENDIARY?—Incendiarism has been suspected
in the case of Chicago. It has also been sus-
pected in the case of the prairie fires. On
Friday night last three separate attempts were
made to fire London, Ontario. Have we the
Paris Commune in the midst of us? It is
matter for inquiry—how much of this des-
truction is the work of the incendiary?

The Rebuilding of Chicago—Hints for the Future Security of the City Against Fire.

In the rebuilding of Chicago the first duty
of the local authorities and of all parties con-
cerned is to respect the lesson and to avoid the
causes, as far as possible, of this late dis-
astrous fire. The city should be laid out on a
new plan, embracing a number of wide bou-
levards running through the city in various
directions, like those of Paris or like the
broad avenues of Washington named after the
States. We like the plan of Washington for
safety against fire. The city is laid out, first,
on the Philadelphia rectangular plan, and in
streets of moderate width. Then, from the
gardens of the President's house, the Capitol
and several other points those broad avenues
radiate through the city in various directions,
and intersecting each other and the right-
angled streets at various points they form nu-
merous plazas or open squares, which, while
the building lines shall be compactly built
with elegant houses, will make Washington
the most beautiful city and the safest against
fires of any city in the world, from the protec-
tion given to its different divisions by these
broad avenues and those numerous open
plazas.

Baron Haussmann's improvements of Paris
under the late empire, which have contrib-
uted much to make that city fireproof, as it
has been proved in the late vain attempts of
the Commune to burn it down, are simply the
adoption of the ground plan of Washington,
and the Baron, we are inclined to suspect, had
the idea of his system of boulevards from a
map of the plan of our national capital. At
all events, this is the plan for the reconstruc-
tion of Chicago—these radiating, broad ave-
nues and the open plazas which they create
at the points of intersection with each other
and the regular streets. Thus, with these
avenues, you will have broad barriers of pro-
tection against the spreading of a fire in any
direction, and in these open squares good
points for great reservoirs of water and re-
fuge places for the storage of goods and house-
hold effects in the event of a threatening fire
in the neighborhood. For purposes of trade,
too, and of health, the plan of these radiating
avenues has its advantages, which should not
be overlooked in the rebuilding of Chicago.

The other securities suggested against fire,
leaving the plan of the city as it is, are
houses of brick and stone, the prohibition
of roofs of shingles, a plentiful supply of water
in reservoirs at various points, and an efficient
paid fire department, such as we have in New
York, which is as good as that of London.
Since our paid Fire Department, with its
active men and powerful horses and steam
engines, has been in full operation we have
had numerous fires started here in person-
alities of combustibles, such as Barnard's
Museum, and surrounded by combustible
buildings, and yet, such is the efficiency of
our firemen, with their new engines, that a
seldom indeed is any building beyond the
first attacked destroyed. Some sections of
our city, such as that around the Five Points,
are conglomerations of rookeries of the most
inflammable materials, and yet a fire in one
of these rookeries, at two o'clock in the morning,
is seldom permitted to reach the next shaft,
even in a dry season and a high wind.

Here, then, after all, in an efficient fire
department, like that of New York, is the
best security for Chicago and all other cities
against disastrous fires. Still, the improve-
ments we have hinted at in the plan of Chi-
cago, considering not only the securities they
will furnish against fire, but their conveni-
ences to trade, their sanitary advantages,
and their ornamental effects, ought to be
adopted in the rebuilding of the city.

Organizing the Committees of the New House of Representatives.

It is reported from Washington that Speaker
Blaine intends to reconstruct the Committee
of Ways and Means and has already made
his slate. Dawes, of New Hampshire, is to
be chairman, Garfield and Kelley are to be
second and third places, and the general com-
plexion of the full committee is to be pro-
tectionist with a mild sub-stratum of free trade.
General Butler is to have no place upon it
whatever, and is even to be ousted from his
present position as Chairman of the Special
Reconstruction Committee and member of the
Judiciary. He is to be assigned to the
end of the Committee on Revolutionary Pen-
sions, the post of honor which Mr. John
Risley so seductively coaxed out of Speaker
Cox for himself, because it had the merit of
entailing no excessive labor and of being
no importance whatever.

This is Speaker Blaine's revenge upon
Butler for the heated discussion with which
Essex champion regaled the last hours of the
session last summer, and the republican
party's revenge for his guerrilla raid upon
Governorship in Massachusetts. It is in-
teresting to know that Butler knows of the new ar-
rangement, and has determined to organize one
of his effective crusades against the commit-
tee system, with the intention of overthrowing
entirely the method of parcelling out legisla-
tion which he finds himself unable to control.
We are much mistaken in Butler if he does
infuse some very exhilarating sentiment into
the session that